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Middle East Situation Report #16
(As of 1100 EST, 17 January 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

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The security situation deteriorated in Beirut and the mountains of the Shuf and Alayh districts yesterday as Druze militia artillery duels with the Lebanese Army and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia reportedly killed 22 and wounded 65. In what US Embassy officials call the worst bombardment since last September, shells impacted near the Ambassador's residence at Yarze and the Ministry of Defense.

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- Prospects for a durable cease-fire are now diminished. Press reports indicate that the Druze-led National Salvation Front has withdrawn its representatives from the Lebanese security arrangements committee, the group set up last November to manage sporadic fighting.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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PERSIAN GULF

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A Saudi consular officer in Beirut was kidnapped today by unidentified gunmen. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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-- According to the embassy, Lebanese Shia affiliated with Iran have threatened both Saudi and French diplomats in the past. Syria is another possible culprit, perhaps wanting to warn the Saudis not to support a Hussein-Ararat rapprochement. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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The US State Department plans to announce that Iran has been designated as a country that supports international terrorism and will be subject to the corresponding export controls. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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DDI/NESA/AI&PG, (17Jan84)

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